HF Happenings

HF Happenings is now on the SARL web

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from the League web site on the HF Happenings page at www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp. From HF Happenings 685 is available for download.

Thank you to Peter, ZS6PHD/1 for the changes to the page.

DXCC deletion of Kingman Reef

The ARRL Awards Committee has voted to delete Kingman Reef (KH5K) from the DXCC List, effective 29 March 2016. Kingman Reef will be added to the Deleted Entities List on 29 March 2016. The total number of entities on the List will drop from 340 to 339.

The deletion process is described in DXCC Rules Section II DXCC List Criteria, Part 5(a) Deletion Criteria: "An entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List."

With respect to the previous paragraph's text, Kingman Reef's original addition by virtue of separate administration has changed (separate administration by the US Navy has been removed) and the reef does not meet any current criteria to remain on the list.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service administer Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island. The reef is too close to Palmyra Island to count as a separate entity. The reef is now considered part of the Palmyra/Jarvis DXCC entity.

DXCC members who have affirmed credit with Kingman Reef will see their current entity totals drop by one on their DXCC awards - including on the bands and modes where Kingman Reef credit is given. They will also see their DXCC Challenge totals drop commensurately.

Honour Roll status will now be attainable after confirming 330 entities on the DXCC List.

UK Radio Amateurs get ready for SAGHOTA

Activities such as Islands on the Air (IOTA) and Summits on the Air (SOTA) have proved hugely popular. It is hoped the new Sheds, Allotments and Green Houses on the Air (SAGHOTA) will have even greater appeal.

The RSGB published the announcement of the new SAGHOTA activity on page 11 of the latest RadCom and in the RSGB Clubs Newsletter sent to all Affiliated Clubs. SAGHOTA aims to celebrate the Great British Shed, Allotment or Green House and to have On the Air Days in 2016 so that these national institutions can be celebrated the way that radio amateurs know best - with a good old bit of waffle (and a nice flask of tea, etc.) Operate your radio from a shed or greenhouse, or on an allotment (or immediately adjacent to one) on a SAGHOTA Day. Make many contacts - contact anyone and everyone - all contacts count except 'duplicates' on the same band, same day.

To add a small competitive 'edge' to SAGHOTA in 2016, a prize, or prizes, will be awarded for the most outstanding participant (judged on activities and QSOs), based on the uploaded Activators' information and any other information (details to be announced). Special certificates for Activators and Chasers can be downloaded from the SAGHOTA website.
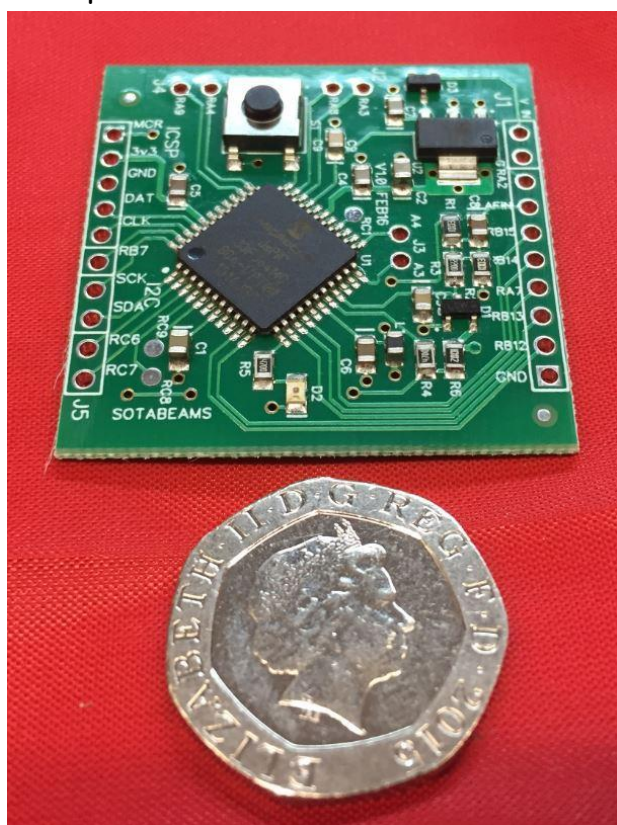
SAGHOTA starts April 1 further information is at

https://sites.google.com/site/saghota/

Beaches on the Air

Amateur radio from the beach, for information visit www.beachesontheair.com/

New product - SSB/CW Filter Modules

SOTABEAMS has just announced a range of ready-built audio filter modules. Each module has two different filters which can be used to improve the selectivity of most radios. The narrow CW filter has a tuning indicator for easier use.

The modules have been designed to be simple to use, requiring just power and audio connections. Naturally, given SOTABEAMS portable pedigree, they have a low current requirement too (30 mA).

Details and recordings of the filters in use at www.sotabeams.co.uk/digital-audio-filter-modules/

Operations Approved for DXCC Credit

The following operations are approved for DXCC Credit:
Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, P5/3Z9DX, 2015 operation
Albania, ZA/IW2JOP, all operations.

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Tunisia, 3V. Special call sign TS60ID is active until 20 May to commemorate Tunisia's 60th Independence Day. QSL via operators' instructions.

African Islands
IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Tunisia, 3V. A group of operators are active as 3V8SM from Djerba Island, IOTA AF-083, until 3 April. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via LX1NO.

Juan De Nova DXpedition news. Press Release from their Web page: (dated 28 March). FT4JA soon on the air - after 2 days at sea on board the Antsiva and almost 2 000 contacts in the log/mm, we are now at anchor off Juan de Nova. As stated on our permits, we cannot land tomorrow at dawn.

The whole team is looking forward to dismount and begin the assembly camp. Unloading plan is defined. We will install in parallel the camp radio, generators, antennas and the life of the camp, which is a substantial amount of work.

Depending on conditions, and if we do not encounter difficulties, we should be on the air late tomorrow

This week in History
(The week starting 28 March 2016)

1732 - Franz Joseph Haydn (31 March 1732 - 1809) was born in Rohrau, Austria. Considered the father of the symphony and the string quartet, his works include 107 symphonies, 50 divertimenti, 84 string quartets, 58 piano sonatas and 13 masses. Based in Vienna, Mozart was his friend and Beethoven was a pupil.
1805 - Fairy tale author Hans Christian Andersen (2 April 1805 - 1875) was born in Odense, Denmark. He created 168 fairy tales for children including the classics The Princess and the Pea, The Snow Queen and The Nightingale.
1853 - Vincent Van Gogh (30 March 1853 - 1890) was born in Groot Zundert, Holland. He was a Postimpressionist painter, generally considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt. During his short (10-year) painting career, he produced over 800 oil paintings and 700 drawings, but sold only one during his lifetime. During his life, Van Gogh suffered from despair and bouts of mental illness, at one point cutting off part of his own left ear. He committed suicide in 1890 by gunshot.
1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St Joseph, Missouri (3 April)
1966 – The School of Artillery and Armour in Potchefstroom is disbanded (31 March)
1966 – The School of Armour (Bloemfontein) and the School of Artillery (Potchefstroom) is established (1 April)
1979 - Near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident occurred in which uranium in the reactor core overheated due to the failure of a cooling valve (28 March)

1981 - Newly elected President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel (30 March)

1982 - The beginning of the Falkland Islands War as troops from Argentina invaded and occupied the British colony located near the tip of South America. The British retaliated and defeated the Argentineans on 15 June 1982, after ten weeks of combat, with about 1,000 lives lost (2 April)

1991 - The Soviet Republic of Georgia, birthplace of Josef Stalin, voted to declare its independence from Soviet Russia, after similar votes by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Following the vote in Georgia, Russian troops were dispatched from Moscow under a state of emergency (31 March)

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 28 March to 4 April 2016

Low Power Spring Sprint
14:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Single Band; Single Op Two/Three Band; Single Op All Band
Max power: A: 1 watt; C: 5 watts; Q: 25 watts; X: 50 watts; Y: 100 watts
Exchange: RST, 4-character grid square and power category (A, C, Q, X, Y)
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with same continent; 9 points per QSO with different continent; 18 points per QSO with OM station
Multipliers: Each grid square once per band; each prefix once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 27 April 2016
E-mail logs to: om3kfv@zoznam.sk
Mail logs to: Radioklub OM3KFV, PO Box 3, 038 61 Vrutky, Slovakia
Find rules at:
http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/lowpowerspringsprint2016.pdf

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 March
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 1 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 30 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 31 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 2 April 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 30 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - high, low or QRP
Single Op Unconnected - high, low or QRP
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 30 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80 m-contests-rules

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 1 April
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 3 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 April
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 3 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

15 Metre SSTV Dash Contest
00:00 UTC 2 April to 23:59 UTC 3 April
Mode: SSTV
Bands: 15 m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: WSSTVC-Member: RSV, "W" and 4-digit member no; non-Members: RSV and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 3 points per QSO with different country same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each country once; Each WSSTVC member once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 18 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://contests.wsstvc.org/submit-log/cabrillo/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://contests.wsstvc.org/rules/

LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest
04:00 UTC-08:00 UTC 2 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - high, low or QRP; Multi-Op; Straight Key; Lady Ops

Max power: QRP: 5 W
Exchange: 3-Digit serial no and 3-digit serial no received from last QSO
Work stations: Once each 30 minutes
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 12 April 2016
E-mail logs to: LZ1GL@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.lzopen.com/lzocc40/indexF.htm

Mississippi QSO Party
14:00 UTC 2 April to 02:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; Mobile; Mobile and Driver; Portable Single Op; Portable Multi-Op
Exchange: MS: RS(T) and county; non-MS: RS(T) and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO
Multipliers: MS stations: Each MS county, state, province and DXCC country once; Non-MS stations: Each MS county once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 April 2016
E-mail logs to: w5xx@vicksburg.com
Mail logs to: Vicksburg ARC, 64 Lake Circle Drive, Vicksburg, MS 39180, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.arrlmiss.org/2016_Mississippi_QSO_Party_-_Rules.pdf

Missouri QSO Party
14:00 UTC 2 April to 04:00 UTC 3 April and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF
Classes: Missouri Fixed - single op - QRP, low or high – multi-op; Missouri Expedition - single op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op; Missouri Rover - single op LP – CW, SSB or mixed - multi-multi unlimited or multi-op LP;

Non-Missouri - single op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op or Canada; DX
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: MO: RS(T) and county; non-MO W/VE: RS(T) and state, province or territory; DX: RS(T) and "DX"
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO; Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with special event station; 100 points for submitting a Cabrillo log electronically
Multipliers: MO: Each MO county, state, province and territory once; MO: Maximum of one DXCC country once; Non-MO: Each MO county once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus
Submit logs by: 3 May 2016
E-mail logs to: moqsoparty@w0ma.org
Mail logs to: Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society W0MA, c/o George Mackus, AB0RX, 11841 Wexford Place Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.w0ma.org/oldwebsite/mo_qso_party/Rules/MOQP-Rules-2016.pdf

SP DX Contest
15:00 UTC 2 April to 15:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Three Band Mixed; Single Op All Band Phone (Low/High); Single Op All Band CW (Low/High); Single Op Single Band Phone; Single Op Single Band CW; Multi-Op All Band Mixed; SWL Mixed
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: SP: RS(T) and 1-character province; non-SP: RS(T) and Serial No.
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: SP: 3 points per QSO outside of Europe; SP: 1 point per QSO with non-SP Europe; non-SP: 3 points per QSO with SP
Multipliers: SP: Each DXCC country once per band regardless of mode; non-SP: Each SP province once per band regardless of mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 April 2016
E-mail logs to: spdxc-logs@pzk.org.pl
Mail logs to: Polski Zwiazek Krotkofalowcow, SPDX Contest Committee. PO Box 320, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland
Find rules at:
http://www.spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl/reg/reg_g.html

EA RTTY Contest
16:00 UTC 2 April to 16:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op
Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: EA: RSQ and province; non-EA: RSQ and Serial No.
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: EA: 2 points per QSO with EA; EA: 1 point per QSO with non-EA; non-EA: 3 points per QSO with EA; non-EA: 1 point per QSO with non-EA
Multipliers: Each EADX100 entity once per band; Each EA province once per band; Each QSO with EA4URE once per band; Each USA, VE, JA or VK call area once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 18 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://concursos.ure.es/en/logs/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://concursos.ure.es/en/eartty/bases/

North American SSB Sprint Contest
00:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max operating hours: 4 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state and DC (including KL7 and KH6) once; Each VE province once; Each North American country (except W/VE) once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 10 April 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)
Upload log at: http://ssbsprint.com/submit-log/
Mail logs to: Chris Tate, N6WM
12450 Del Valle Rd
Livermore, CA 94550
USA
Find rules at: http://ssbsprint.com/rules/

RSGB RoLo SSB
19:00 – 20:30 UTC 3 April
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: RS, previous QRA locator received
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with UK station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 10 April 2016
Upload log at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England
Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/rolo.shtml

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW
19:00 – 20:30 UTC 4 April
Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 April 2016

Upload log at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 5 April
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 April
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 6 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 April
UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 6 April
SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 - 20:00 UTC 7 April
NRAU 10m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig)7 April
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 8 April
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 April
JIDX CW Contest, 07:00 UTC 9 April to 13:00 UTC 10 April
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 10:00 UTC 9 April to 04:00 UTC 10 April
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB, 12:00 UTC 9 April to 12:00 UTC 10 April
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 9 April to 24:00 UTC 10 April
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 9 April to 23:59 UTC 10 April
New Mexico QSO Party 14:00 UTC 9 April to 02:00 UTC 10 April
Georgia QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 9 April to 03:59 UTC 10 April and 14:00 - 23:59 UTC 10 April
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest, 21:00 UTC 9 April to 21:00 UTC 10 April
International Vintage Contest HF, 12:00 - 18:00 UTC 10 April
Hungarian Straight Key Contest, 15:00 - 17:00 UTC 10 April

VHF Happenings

April Meteor Showers

The Meteor Scatter (MS) season has started with the April meteor showers, and will continue until the beginning of January. There are 88 annual meteor showers listed by astronomers of which the majority are minor showers, while a major shower will appear at least monthly from now until January. Meteoroids are debris from comets or asteroids, and when these small particles, which vary in size, burn up in the upper atmosphere they leave visible meteor trails. These trails can also reflect VHF radio waves from 50 to 432 MHz, and produce very strong radio bursts on 50 MHz, and the radio bursts last a lot longer on this magic band.

Normally meteor bursts are only audible for a few seconds, but could increase up to several minutes during major showers. There are five minor showers present during the month of April to provide excellent contacts on the digital mode FSK441. A major shower, Lyrids, will appear between 16 to 25 April 2016 and peak in the early morning 22 April with an hourly rate that may vary from 18 trails to several dozen over different years, and make possible SSB or FM communications which could cover distances up to 2 500 km. Meteor Scatter has a skip dis-

tance of 500 - 600 km on 50 MHz, but it increases on the higher VHF bands. Take up the challenge and give it a go on 50 MHz!

JSatTrak Satellite App

Radio amateur Shawn Gano, KB3OJE, has developed a satellite tracking App called JSatTrak that should run on almost any operating system. JSatTrak is written in Java and allows you to predict the position of any satellite in real time or in the past or future.

Download JSatTrak from http://www.gano.name/shawn/JSatTrak/

VHF/UHF Contests

UBA 6 m Spring Contest
06:00 – 10:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 6 m Only
Classes: Single; SWL
Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: ON: RS(T), serial no and UBA Section; non-ON: RS(T) and serial no
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station
Multipliers: Each UBA Section
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 17 April 2016
E-mail logs to: ubaspring@uba.be
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest

144 MHz Spring Sprint, 19:00 local – 23:00 local 11 April

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter